Washington has been actively monitoring developments in the US Congress relating to India and lobbying with influential US Congressmen and opinion-makers to enhance understanding of India's concerns. The Mission's efforts are being supplemented by our Consulates and a law firm which has been engaged to assist us in lobbying with the US Congress. An intensive public information campaign covering a wide spectrum of US opinion has also been undertaken. This has been a continuing effort over a long time.

**Strength of Department of Post**

343. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the strength of Department of Post (Cadre-wise);

(b) in keeping with the norms prescribed by Government whether Government are considering any proposal for reduction of strength at the headquarters and directing the surplus staff to the Circles for operational work; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to overhaul the whole Department of post and whether any steps are being taken to place yearly lumpsum amount at the disposal of Postmaster Generals as is being done in telecom wing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The information is given at statement (*see* below).

(b) The review of posts both at Headquarters and field is done with reference to justified workload and redeployment/creation carried out as required.

(c) Operations, procedures and structures of the Department are constantly studied to effect improvement. There is no proposal to place any yearly lump sum amount at the disposal of circles.

**Statement**

*Carde-Strength of Department of Post in Group 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D', and 'ED'*

| | |
|---|---|
| Group 'A' | 635 |
| Group 'B' | 1843 |
| Group 'C' | 231994 |
| Group 'D' | 55562 |
| Extra Departmental | 306027 |
| Total A+B+C+D | 290034 |
| Extra-Deparmental | 306027 |
| Grand Total | 596061 |

**Cases of Custodial Deaths**

344. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of custodial deaths in police in the national capital have increased since the past few months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the total number of custodial deaths taken place during the past six months;

(c) whether the National Human Rights Commission have started probing the cause of deaths of inmates in police custody; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) No death in police custody in the Capital has been reported by Delhi Police in the last six months. However, intimation of four instances of deaths allegedly in police custody in Delhi in the last six months was given to the National Human Rights Commissioner of Police, Delhi and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi on each of these deaths, allegedly in police custody. Reports on all these four instances have been received by the Commission. In two of these cases, after considering the reports, the Commission has directed that no further action be taken.